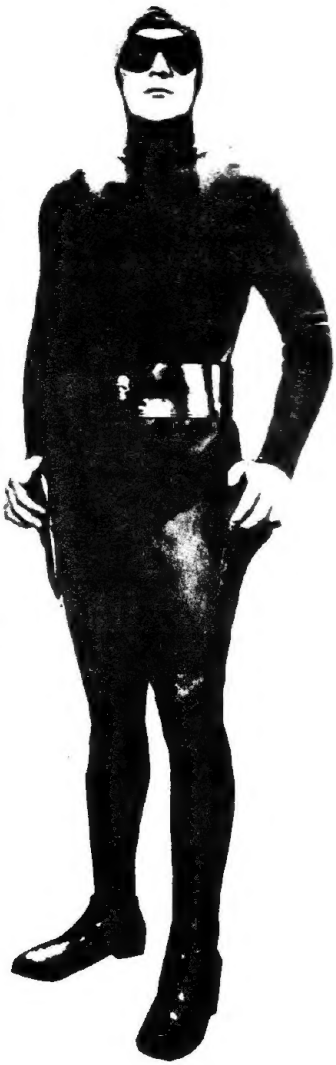
THE COLLECTOR 7

TOM TYLER

AS...

THE PHANTOM



KNOW YE ALL PRESENT THAT THIS BE...
THE
F.A.C.T.
COLLECTOR!
...AND THAT YE NOW BE WITNESS TO THE BEGINNING OF A NEW COMIC STRIP!
NUMBER 7
PAUL LEGRAZIE JR.
QUICKLY! WE HAVE BUT MOMENTS TO ESCAPE... BEFORE THIS VERY WORLD WE STAND ON IS DESTROYED!!
A BILL G. WILSON PUBLICATION

COLLECTORS

THE COLLECTOR 7 (November 1967). Published bi-monthly as a non-profit, amateur magazine by Bill G. Wilson, 1535 Oneida Drive, Clairton, Pa. 15025. Back Issues: #1, 15¢; #2, 15¢; #3*4, 30¢; #5*6, 30¢. Copies of this issue are available for 15¢. Advertising Rates: (classified) ¼ pg, 20¢; ½ pg, 40¢; 1 pg, 75¢.(display) ¼ pg, 25¢; ½ pg, 50¢; 1 pg, $1.Ad sheets-25¢ on one side, 35¢ if printed on both sides.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Paul Legrazie
Rod Van Sickle
"guest artist"
Charles Thorpe
Larry A. Petroff
Bill Wilson
Bill Schelly

PUBLISHING EDITOR Bill Wilson

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Remember! Order TC #8 now for a copy sent flat in an envelope. Only 15¢ Order now!

A
F.A.C.T.
ZINE

2

((We're finally bi-monthly!))

Editorial

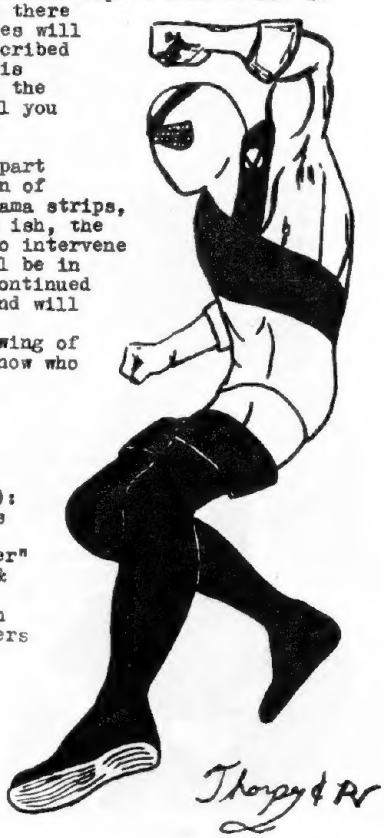
by
Editor Bill G. Wilson

Hi again, and all that jazz. Hope you like this ish as the discriminating fan will find the absence of Marsh Lanz, Fred Hembeck, Mark Dillman, John Weibel, Greg Kishel, Doug Fratz, and Steve Johnson in this ish. The reasons for this is the page count this ish and the fact that I didn't get a chance to write or talk to them about contribs for this issue. Anyway, I hope these guys work are included in the next issue.

As to this new policy talked about throughout this ish, I'll partly explain it now. All it is, is that I'll probably increase the page count (and the price a little, depending upon the pages) and I'll have two prices for TC; one for folded copies and one for copies mailed flat in envelopes, to please all the readers. Also there will be NO subscriptions; only single copies will be purchased. If any of you out there subscribed for numbers 1-7, your sub runs out with this issue. Please order the next issue, #8, at the price given below and do not order #9 until you are notified in TC or by me that it can be ordered.

Another part of the new policy (this part has started this ish) will be the inclusion of sci-fi material and ama strips. As to the ama strips, "THE COLLECTORS" began in this issue. Next ish, the strip will be "THE VIGILANTE", as I plan to intervene these two strips so that each of these will be in every other issue. Sometimes, (I hope) uncontinued strips will take the place of the others and will end in the same ish.

Finally, as to the "guest artist" drawing of the Green Hornet on the previous page, I know who he is, but he wishes to remain anonymous.



TC 8 - 15 ¢

The next ish will contain (pretty reliable):
1) "THE VIGILANTE" (right) drawn by Charles Thorpe & inked by Rod Van Sickle
2) The concluding chapters of "Crime-Fighter"
3) The answers to the FF Crossword Puzzle & maybe some art by Doug Fratz too!
4) I also hope will have some work by Marsh Lanz, John Weibel, Fred Hembeck and others whose presence are missed

Order TC #8 now for 15¢ a copy sent flat!

Out in January!

See you next issue?

THE STORY BEHIND

THE PHANTOM

BY

LARRY A. PETROFF

ART BY BILL G. WILSON

The Phantom was created by Lee Falk. The first Phantom newspaper strip appeared in a famous New York newspaper on February 20, 1936. Lee Falk worked on the Phantom with other artists such as Ray Moore, Wilson McCoy, and Sy Barry. The first story of The Phantom, entitled "The Ghost Who Walks vs The Singhs" was drawn in daily strips by Ray Moore, beginning on February 20, 1936. Wilson McCoy, dead in 1960, used to illustrate Falk's stories since 1942, together with Ray Moore. Only in 1948 he began to sign the strip. Bill Lignante was chosen after the death of McCoy. He finished the story that McCoy was illustrating (The Wounded Tiger, dated February 20, 1961) and drew a new one (The Amazing Kingdom of Queen Samaris). He also illustrated the Phantom Comic published by Gold Key, and now illustrates the Phantom published by King Features Syndicate, the original copyright owner and distributor of the Phantom, Mandrake, and many other comic strip characters. Sy Barry is the present syndicated Phantom artist. He began on August 14, 1961 drawing the daily strip while Lignante was illustrating the Sunday color pages. His first story was "The Avenger of Mucar".

The Phantom's Skull Cave

The Phantom's headquarters in the Deep Woods is a natural cavern with a most unusual entrance, known as the Skull Cave. All the Phantoms for sixteen generations have lived there in safety and comfort. The living quarters are small and simple. Carefully kept records of the events of 400 years are here in the Phantom Chronicles, the history of The Ghost Who Walks. Vast treasures, gifts, and rewards dating back to the first Phantom, but worthless in the jungle, are stored away here. The Skull Throne is the center of all activity in the Deep Woods . Anyone wishing to see the Phantom is brought here.

For Those Who Came In Late, THIS IS THE PHANTOM!

Four hundred years ago, the sole survivor of a pirate raid was washed up on a remote beach.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE ➡ 4

He swore to dedicate his life to the elimination of superstition, injustice and intolerance; and that his decendents would follow him in this fight. This was the first Phantom.

The line has continued unbroken to this day. Natives of the Bengali Jungle, thinking it the same man, say the Phantom is immortal; a man who cannot die. But this "Ghost Who Walks" is in a succession that has lasted through four centuries; 16th in the succession.

Our Phantom, like his ancestors before him, is the nemesis of evildoers everywhere. He was born and trained in the Deep Woods, a remote secret area of the Bengali Jungle. Here it was that the first Phantom made his home in a cave whose entrance is in the form of a huge skull.

The Deep Woods is the original home of the Bandar, the dreaded pygmy poison people. In the days before the first Phantom made up his role as the Phantom, all the native tribes were savage & hostile & warlike; this one tribe was feared above all others. But they befriended the first Phantom, made his home for him, helped him establish the Phantom Peace, and they have protected his secret and his descendents ever since.

Our Phantom, as a boy, learned how to survive in the jungle from these fierce little people. They taught him everything they knew about weaponry, warfare, and the natural dangers of the jungle life. From his father, he learned of the modern world; the pitfalls and dangers of keeping the Phantom Peace.

But his formal education took place in the United States. As a young boy, he was sent to an American prep school enrolled under the name Kit Walker (Walker for "The Ghost who Walks"). Because of his tough jungle training, he became an outstanding athlete. His abilities as a runner, swimmer, & jumper helped him establish records that haven't since been broken, and may not be until his own son, as yet unborn, follows in his footsteps. Through his college days, he became an All-American football player, an expert fencer, and at one point even defeated the world's heavyweight boxing champion in an exhibition match.

Upon his arrival in the United States, the Phantom met Diana Palmer, a girl slightly younger than himself, who was a neighbor of his aunt and uncle, with whom he was living at the time. Though they were young children when they met, Kit (the Phantom) and Diana became constant companions and eventually sweethearts. In later years, they competed in many sports. Indeed, Diana almost outmatched the young Phantom-to-be in diving & swimming, and went on to become a world-famous Olympic diving champion.

Toward the end of our Phantom's college career, his father was killed by marauding pirates. Young Kit Walker was called back to the Deep Woods to replace him, and the line was once again unbroken. Diana, on occasion, is involved in an adventure with the Phantom in the jungle or elsewhere, but she still lives in the United States and they have not as yet married.

(above) A sample panel from one of Sy Barry's daily strips.

Today, with the aid of the Bandar and the super-secret Jungle Patrol, the Phantom fights evil and injustice not only in the Bengali Jungle, but wherever he finds it. His name is a legend all over the world. His good work has earned him the grattitude of kings, the respect of simple jungle natives, and the admiration of peace-loving people everywhere.

To symbolize himself, the Phantom wears two rings. All the world knows the sign of the skull, the mark of the Phantom! -- Delivered to evildoers by the hard right fist of the Phantom! Less is known of the Phantom's good mark, delivered gently by his left fist. The lucky few who receive this mark carry it for life. With the good mark goes the protection of the Phantom for the one who receives it and for all his descendants!

THE END

LETTERS

John Baldwin
918 ½ Huron Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604

Bill:

I am not in the habit of writing letters to fanzines-but in this case I will-for yours is the first one I've come across in a long, long time, that I can feel really comfortable and at home with.

First, I love the size. Don't change that, whatever you do! I can fold it over once, stick it in my shirt pocket-and then whenever I catch a few spare minutes during the day, I've got something with me to read. - Then I press it out again and into my files at home. Sometimes those large full sized fanzines set around weeks before I get a chance to read them. I'd never dare take them to work! In other words, yours can be a personal and private little magazine, in a way that the larger ones never could. It's OK to increase the thickness, but don't touch the other dimensions!

Second, I feel comfortable with it because it deals so fully with one of the only two comics I feel at home with - 'Batman & Robin'. (The other, strange as it may seem, is Walt Disney's Donald Duck, Uncle Scrooge, etc.)

I never could feel an affinity for super powered heroes and Marvel Comics leaves me completely cold. The only super-hero allowed to set foot in my collection whatsoever is a few of the better old Captain Marvels & Capt. Marvel Jrs. from Fawcett, mainly for nostalgic reasons.

Sincerely,

John Baldwin

((Thanks for your kind words on TC, John. No need to worry about TC's dimensions; I plan to keep them the same, though a new policy may be established after #8. By the way. Since you only feel at home with Batman & Walt Disney characters, does this mean that you dislike all other comics that are currently on the stands? I have so many favorite comic characters that if I were asked to pick the ones I enjoy most, I'd have a hard time deciding. Sure, I like Batman, Capt. Marvel, and the THUNDER agents, but does this mean I dislike the Phantom, Flash Gordon, & Mandrake? The answer, most certainly, is NO! And I like other things besides comics, too! Like sci-fi, fantasy, etc.))

Dear Bill,
Congrats on a fine ish of THE COLLECTOR--and thanks from all of us here at the Bullpen for sending it! Our only suggestion is...maybe you could somehow make the type just a little bigger! It puts a real cramp on the ol' peepers as it is now! Anyhoo, we'll be looking forward to next ish—and resting our eyes up for it!

Cordially yours,
Gary Friedrich,
Assistant Editor

((Thanks for your comments Gary, and I'm glad that TC 5*6 pleased the Marvel Bullpen. — Bill))

* *

Douglas Fratz
R.R. #1
Accident, Md. 21520

Dear Bill,
The Collector 5*6 was really great! You have a real quality pub. now! I hope you don't cut down the size too much, as I think 24 pages is just right. ((As a double issue for 30¢ yes, but not for a single. --Ed.))
The cover is the best illoe I've ever seen you do. ((Thanks!'-Ed.)) I had to check to the contents page to be sure it was by you. The only thing that could possibly have improved it, would be to have his hands formed better.
The pinups on 6 & 7 were good, but each had a defect. Hulk's pinched right shoulder and GL's right shoulder, the same way. Fred must have a thing about right shoulders!
"Batroc the Leaper" was very good, although Greg should have taken more time on the illoe.
Crime Fighter's as dumb as ever, but you know, I kinda like him.
The Batman article was OK, but I'm really not a Batman fan.
I enjoyed "I Believe!" and the back cover was really fab!
I'm enclosing 2 pin ups and an illustrated crossword of the Legion. Hope you like them & can use them. ((Imay use them next ish—Ed.))

Yours Truly,
Douglas Fratz

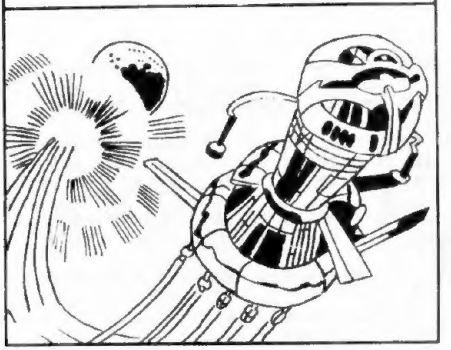
((Thanks for the comments on 5*6, Doug!—Ed.))

* *

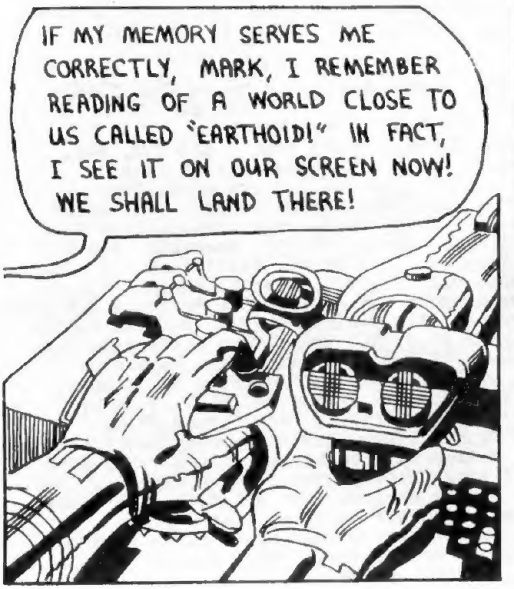
TERMS: All comics listed are a mere 30¢ ea., 2 are 50¢, 3 are 75¢, etc. You must send an SAE with your order. — The following are at least 8 years old. The top 3" of the cover are cut off. All are mint. They all must go! DELLS: Man in Space (#954), John Paul Jones (#1007), 7th Voyage of Sinbad (#944), Soloman and Sheba (#1070), Hardy Boys (#964), High Adventure (#949), Lone Ranger vol. 1 #126, Zorro (#1037), Buckskin (#1011), Fury (#975), Cheyenne #13, Wyatt Earp #7. CHARLTONS: Wyatt Earp v.1 #24, Wild Bill Hickok v.1 #71, Lash LaRue v.1 #71, 72, Maverick Marshal v.1 #3,6, Tex Ritter v.1 #32,45, Texas Rangers v.1 #15,16. DC: Wonder Woman #103. The following are complete, covers and all. M-mint, G-good, F-fair. Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea #8,G; Jaguar #5,G; Hot Brand Echh #1,G; Sgt. Fury #47,G; Premiere #2,G to M; Amer. Best TV Comics,G; Fantastic Voyage,G; Lois Lane #72,F to G; Jimmy Olsen #106,G; Superman #200,F to G; Strange Adventures #205,G (1st Deadman); Tales of the Unexpected #102, F to G; Flash #155, F to G, #173,G; World's Finest #168,G; Teen Titans #5,G. BOOKS: Lone Ranger Rides North by Fran Striker, hardback book, published by Grosset and Dunlap, 1946, $2.25. Batman vs. Penguin paperback, very good shape, only 40¢! STRIPS: All Lil' Abner Sunday Strips since Nov. 27, 1966. Make price on complete stories or single strips. Most all daily Lil' Abner strips, since Nov. 24, 1966. Several complete stories, just 30¢ ea. GUM CARDS: Many Batman 2nd series cards. Many Batman movie cards from the series of 38 cards. Also have complete set of these, 50¢. Single cards,2¢ ea.
MARK DILLMAN 834 PLASS TOPEKA, KANSAS 66606

THE COLLECTORS

IN THE VASTNESS OF SPACE, A PLANET PERISHES, BUT NOT BEFORE A SOLE ROCKET ESCAPES ITS FIERY BLAST...



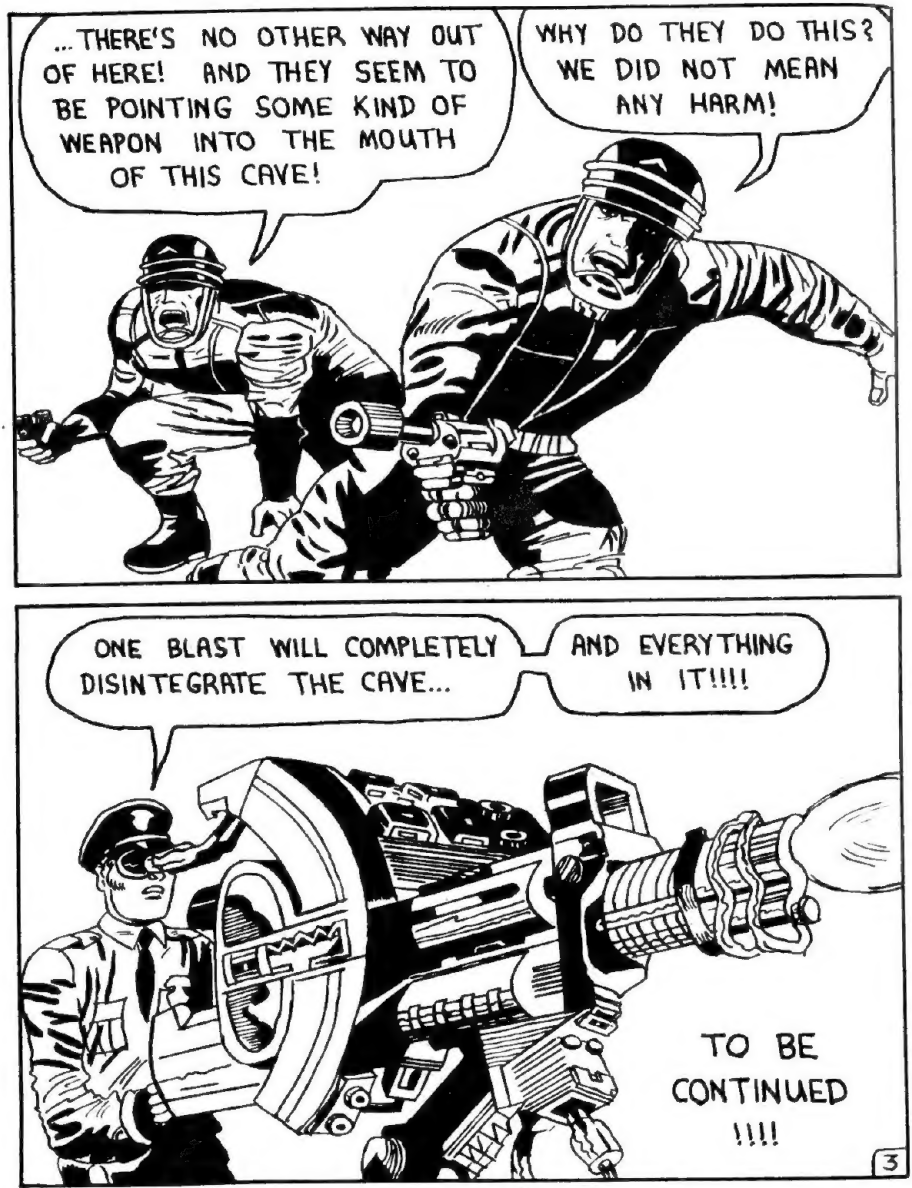
WE GOT OUT JUST IN TIME, BILL! BUT WHERE CAN WE GO WITHOUT ANY CHARTS TO GUIDE US?
-AND WE DON'T HAVE MUCH FUEL LEFT! DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO STOCK UP!


IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME CORRECTLY, MARK, I REMEMBER READING OF A WORLD CLOSE TO US CALLED "EARTHOID!" IN FACT, I SEE IT ON OUR SCREEN NOW! WE SHALL LAND THERE!

WHILE, ON THE PLANET, "EARTHOID"...

CONTINUED?

WE'RE HIT!! WE'RE HIT!!
QUICKLY! ACTIVATE EMERGENCY LANDING FACILITIES!
WE'VE GOT THEM! IF THEY SURVIVE THE CRASH, I DON'T WANT THEM TO ESCAPE!
SHOOT TO KILL !!!!
...AND SO, PERSISTENT REPORTS FROM RELIABLE SOURCES INDICATE THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT HAS BEEN SIGHTED AND SHOT DOWN...
WWN TV
JOHN JONE
...THEY SAY THERE WERE TWO OCCUPANTS IN THE SAUCER, AND THAT THEY NOW HAVE THEM TRAPPED IN A CAVE!
HOGWASH! NOTHING BUT A PUBLICITY STUNT!
DAILY EAGLE
FLYING SAUCER MEN TRAPPED


...THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OUT OF HERE! AND THEY SEEM TO BE POINTING SOME KIND OF WEAPON INTO THE MOUTH OF THIS CAVE!
WHY DO THEY DO THIS? WE DID NOT MEAN ANY HARM!
ONE BLAST WILL COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATE THE CAVE...
AND EVERYTHING IN IT!!!!
TO BE CONTINUED !!!!
3

A Rebuttal

BY

BILL SCHELLY

Actually, this article is not really a rebuttal, but is the response of an annoyed fan — annoyed by the farcial review of Charlton in The Collector #3*4, by Rick Howe, entitled "The Misguided Giant".

At first glance, the article seems to be fair. After all, the entire thing, including art, filled up 4 pages. However, after closer examination, one discovers that the whole article is a big mess of nothing.

The statement "In fact, CDC is weak in only 2 fields of comics; humor and super hero" puzzles me. In the context, it is referring to numbers, since the author already established that Charltonhas "an impressive array of titles". Let's count: there's Capt. Atom, PeaceMaker, Blue Beetle, JudoMaster, Thunderbolt, Hercules, and for humor, Go-go. In addition, as added features they have the Sentinels, Fightin' Five, Sarge Steel, Nightshade, and the Question. To me, this does not seem weak, as our respected author claims — indeed, their line has much strength and balance. A war hero, a detective, 2 groups, a mythological hero, 2 mystery heroes and others. As for "Their lack of humor comics", what is Go-go? Re: "Charlton's vast resources", I wouldn't call the junk they continue to publish in war comics, romance, and westerns exactly resourceful. Their best writers and artists are in their super-heroes, NOT their other titles. The line "But their failure to produce a super hero of any importance is another matter" is a laugh. Why, fans like Steve Johnson, Dave Bibby and many many others admire Blue Beetle and their other mags, and CDC's heroes are as well known in Fandom as any of the Marvelheroes. The word "Importance" is vague — just what is meant by it?

Since when is Charlton "The acknowledged leader in both war and romance comics"? Who acknowledged them as leader? I don't, and I've never run across anyone who has. Just because they have a large number of each, doesn't necessarily make them #1 in the field, as the author would have us believe.

"The best selling books on the stands are the super hero ones" ... be logical! If super heroes sold more for them, they'd play them up. Obviously super heroes that they tried DIDN'T sell more, or they would have cut their line of war comics much sooner.

"Their stories /Konga, Gorgo, Capt. Atom/ adhered rigidly to realism and did not give play to enough fantasy and imagination." I don't think Mr. Howe is too familiar with those old comics. At times, one would actually laugh at some of the things Capt. Atom did ... carrying a happy little kid through space, etc. They were different from the dull Superman stories of the time. Maybe the plots were bad, but just maybe they were bad because the authors were EXPERIMENTING!

As for Konga, I remember one Ditko issue which would rival GRAND ECCH for laughs. No joke, the entire magazine was humor. "Cut and dried..." the author says. Rubbish.

"By 1964 ... both DC and Marvel were approaching their peaks of success." Nonsense. In 1964 Batman was at his lowest ebb — now, he's selling the best in a long time, much moreso than in 1964. Due to the popularityof the Batman tv show, fans arebuying many, many more comics than they were in 1964. DC is at its most recent peak now. (I say "most recent" because comics sold, I believe, more copies per magazine in the '40's.) As for Marvel, their circulations have NEVER been better than now. Perhaps quality is down, but that is not the issue. Sales are better now than in '64.

If Capt. Atom is such a hit, why is it being discontinued, as I have heard it will be? ((Ed note: This article was done a short while before the Charlton action heroes line was discontinued, so this is why this statement is made))

Now for my main gripe. In one paragraph, he says: "These 3 super heroes are exactly the opposite of T-Bolt /The Sentinels/. They seem to be imitating the Marvel style, with heroes getting all wrapped up in personal problems, punny humor, etc." Then, later, he completely contradicts himself, in saying "The writers could play up the fight scenes /this is already being done in Blue Beetle and others/ and keep the plot simple, inject slang phrases generously through the scripts and make jokes between each panel." Personally, I'm mystified as to how jokes can be made between panels, unless he's suggesting an imitation of MAD's "Marginal Thinking Dept." In one sentence he says 'copy Marvel', in the next 'don't copy it'. Obviously, their attempt at Marvel-esque humor failed — why later suggest that they do the very thing they couldn't do before? Next, he says "They /Charlton/ are no where near the top", then turns around and says "Charlton ... is right up among the Marvel and DC titles". (Don't say that the first sentence was about sales, the second about quality, because the first was NOT about sales, as it might appear to be at first glance.)

The rest of the article consists of terribly garbled sentences replete with spelling and grammatical errors. The preceeding rebuttal is not perfect, nor do I expect an article to be, but this article on Charlton was just so lousy that I felt I ought to say something. Indeed, it is not Charlton who is misguided, but you, dear author Howe.

THE END

((Ed note: The above rebuttal is a summary of the opinions of its author, Bill Schelly, and does not reflect upon this publication or any members of its staff in any way. Send in your comments on this rebuttal, and if you have a gripe or some kind, please inform me. — Bill))

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